



ON Nashville!

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

Issue 5

April 2002

Mayor's Office Launches Neighborhood Training Institute

Special Points of Interest

- **Mayor's Office launches Neighborhood Training Institute**
- **News from the Davidson County Election Commission**
- **Update on Community Enhancement Grants**

ON Nashville is published by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for citizens of Nashville and Davidson County.

Inside this issue:

Neighborhood Happenings	2
On Neighborhoods	2
Oh No's	3
ON Community Enhancement Grant Recipients	3
ON Metro Departments	4

As part of the city's ongoing commitment to building and sustaining strong communities throughout Nashville, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods recently launched its Neighborhood Training Institute. The institute offers a series of free interactive courses designed to build capacity of Nashville's citizens by helping them develop the skills, knowledge and organizational resources necessary to become effective advocates for their communities. Course offerings are chosen in response to frequently requested information from community groups and are intended to be quick and informative. Instructors have been chosen from various departments throughout Metro Government as well as some local experts. The classes are offered free of charge and are open to the public.

The first course in the series, entitled *Structure and Foundation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County*, was facilitated by Sue Cain of the Metro Legal Department. The course covered the history of Nashville, the difference between the Urban Services and General Services districts, the three branches of government and how a bill becomes a law. Participants of the class found the information to be very informative and useful. This particular class will be offered again in the fall.

The second course, facilitated by Catherine Mayhew of *The City Paper* and Elizabeth Kruse of *The Tennessean*, was entitled *Getting the Word Out: Establishing a Working Relationship With the Media*. The course covered the fundamentals of communicating with the media, writing a press release and talking

to reporters. The class was well worth the time and neighborhood groups received useful information.

The third course, entitled *Citywide Landuse: Zoning 101*, will be facilitated by Rick Shepherd and Sonny West of the Metro Codes Administration. This session will be offered on April 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the downtown Nashville Public Library. The workshop covers allowable land uses, the Board of Zoning Appeals (their roles and responsibilities), how to make an inquiry on a property, signage laws, and variances?

Other courses include *Taking it To Another Level: How to Become a 501(c)3*, May 11, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and May 16, 6-8:30 p.m.; *Preserving Your Neighborhood Housing Stock: Affordable Housing Solutions*, May 21 and 30, 6:00-8:30 p.m.; *Generating Resources: Keys to Successful Grant Proposals*, June 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and June 25, 6-8:30 p.m.

The Neighborhood Training Institute also offers "On the Road Course Offerings." Several Metro Departments have committed to going out to individual neighborhoods to facilitate courses for participants. During the months of April and May, neighborhoods are encouraged to contact Karene West (862-6600) to schedule a presentation on *Codes: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know*. During the months of June and July, neighborhoods should contact Assistant Chief Kim Lawson (862-5437) to schedule a presentation on *Emergency Preparedness: Homeland Security in Nashville*.

If you're interested in attending courses or you have ideas about future courses, please contact Michelle Cummings at 880-1811 or e-mail michelle.cummings@mayor.nashville.org. Pre-registration is required.

On Neighborhoods: Greenwood Neighborhood Association

The Greenwood Neighborhood Association was started in 1990 and reorganized in 1998. According to association president James H. Jenkins, there was a need for improved safety in the neighborhood. "As people move out and others move in," states Jenkins, "we need to know who our neighbors are. We need better neighborhood communication." That is why on the 2^d Tuesday of each month residents in the area convene to address concerns such as safety, communication techniques, community appearance, and other pertinent issues.

Most recently the Greenwood Neighborhood Association was awarded a grant by the Mayor's Of-

fice of Neighborhoods to install dusk to dawn lights at 105 homes. In most areas, the streetlights are far apart and there is very little lighting from house to house. "There are a lot of elderly residents in our area," Jenkins explains, "and the dusk to dawn lighting will provide for better security overall."

In the future, Jenkins hopes that the association can take an active part in providing other safety measures in the neighborhood. He wants the Greenwood Neighborhood Association to help residents better themselves and wants to see projects, such as a new playground, implemented.

News from the Election Commission

Do you want to avoid unnecessary delays when you go to vote on Election Day? If you are a resident of Davidson County who has moved and has not yet contacted your local election commission, it is important that you do so immediately.

To expedite your change of address, there are three options you can choose from: fill out the change of address form located on the back of your voter registration card, then mail this information to:

*Permanent Registration Office
Room 153
Howard School Office Building
700 2ND Avenue S.
Nashville, TN 37210*

You can also print on a piece of paper your name, social security number, old address, new address, signature and mail it in. Finally, you are always welcome to visit your

local election commission office and make your change of address in person. The Davidson County Election Commission is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The registration deadline for the May 7 local primary election has already passed, but you still have until July 2 to register for the August 1 state and congressional primaries. The deadline for the November 5 statewide and congressional general elections is October 5.

Remember, the right to vote is a privilege and by casting your ballot on Election Day you will strengthen our democracy and insure that future generations will have the right to participate in this great American tradition.

If you need special accommodation, contact the ADA Coordinator at 862-8800 or by TTY at 862-8811.

Neighborhood Happenings

Monroe Village Elder Celebration
North Branch Library on Monroe Street
April 25, 2002, 5:00 p.m.

Beacon Square Neighborhood Bulk Item Cleanup
Cabot Drive, Beacon Lane, Upton Lane, Upton
Court South and Upton Court North
Friday, April 26, ONLY

Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership
Spend \$10 on Jefferson Street
April 26, 2002

Neighborhood Training Institute
Citywide Landuse: Zoning 101
Nashville Public Library (downtown branch)
April 27, 2002, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(registration required)

Richland-West End Neighborhood
Bulk Item Cleanup
West End to Murphy Road; I-440 to Wilson Blvd.
(do not place items in the alley)
April 29, ONLY

Nashville's Role in the Civil Rights Movement
Nashville Public Library (downtown branch)
May 15, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Neighbors of Antioch
2nd Annual Spring Festival
4721 Bowfield Drive
May 18, 2002, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(parking available at J.E. Moss Elementary)

Rolling Acres Neighbors
Neighborhood Wide Yards Sale
May 18, 2002
www.neighborhoodlink.com/nashville/ran

Metropolitan Council Meetings
Metro Courthouse
1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
7:00 p.m.

Metropolitan School Board Meeting
Board Room, 2601 Bransford Ave.
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Howard Office Bldg. Auditorium
(1st & 3rd Thursday of each month)
1:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
Howard Office Bldg. Auditorium
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month
1:00 p.m.

Community Enhancement Grant Funds used by Friendship Community Outreach Center

The Friendship Community Outreach Center was recently awarded a grant through the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods Community Enhancement Grant initiative. The grant will be used to further enhance the center's *Village of Enrichment* program, created and incorporated in January 2000.

The purpose of the program is to create a healthy, wholesome, and complete neighborhood for the residents of the Fisk/Meharry areas, as well as those who live in the John Henry Hale and Andrew Jackson public housing community. To accomplish its goals, the program makes available tutorial assistance to increase the mastery of exit skills for high school students. It also serves as an alter-

native site for children who have been suspended from school, provides GED testing, and daily nutritious snacks.

The grant money awarded to this program will be used to purchase four computers to help prepare high school students for ACT and SAT testing.

The program operates Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. During the summer months, the *Village of Enrichment* offers a 40-day program, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information or to offer your assistance in any way, please contact Reverend Janiro Hawkins, *Village of Enrichment*, 1703 Jo Johnston, Nashville, TN 37203, 615-329-1467.

Hadley Park/Clift on Neighborhood Festival

On Saturday, April 6, residents of the Hadley Park Neighborhood Association gathered for a neighborhood festival. According to event organizer, Beverly Jacobs, the purpose of the festival was "to increase visibility of the association among area residents, educate them about the association and encourage their involvement in association activities."

Funded through the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods Community Enhancement Grant program, the event featured live entertainment, food, and fun. Also on hand were representatives from several community service agencies, as well as representa-



tives from the Metro Codes Department, Metro Beautification, and Metro Public Works Solid Waste Division.

Jingles the Clown, pictured above, was on hand to entertain younger citizens with face painting and balloon tricks. Providing music for the day were Christian music group J.Watt and members of the Corinthian Baptist Church choir.

Oh No!

(Answers to some of your
concerns)

I've been thinking about recycling but do not know what to do to get started. How can I get information about the new recycling program?

For information on recycling in Nashville you can call CURBY at 880-1000 or visit them on the web at www.nashville.gov/recycle.

I am looking for a new career and I don't know where to start. Does Metro Government have a department that offers employment information?

Anyone looking for employment is welcome to use the Nashville Career Advancement Center's Resource Center. The Resource Center has 24 computers with full Microsoft Office applications and Internet capabilities. Job seekers are welcome to use the Center's fax, copy machine, and phone to assist with their job search. There is a library of career resources and current employment related magazines available for use. The staff in the Resource Center is another asset in your job search. They can help you secure interviews with companies that are hiring NOW! They can also help you learn about other services available through the Career Center. Call them today at **862-8890**.



Bill Purcell, Mayor

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

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Fax: 615-862-6040
Email: mayor@metro.nashville.org

ON Metro Department s... Metro Codes Administration

For the 97 employees of the Metro Codes Administration, enforcing the numerous Metro code ordinances is a very full workload. In 2001, Codes issued just over 9,000 building permits valued in excess of \$1.2 billion; performed upwards of 123,000 regulatory inspections of new and existing structures; and cited over 9,000 violations of the Property Standards and Zoning Codes. These statistics demonstrate just how often our public safety is protected by the efforts of the Codes department, through regulatory inspections and issuance of building permits, as well as the licensing and registration of nearly 3,000 plumbing, electrical, and gas/mechanical contractors.

As a participating department in the Neighborhood Response Team, Codes has participated in 31 neighborhood audits at the request of neighborhood and business organizations. Of the nearly 5,000 requests for assistance that have been generated by neighborhood audits, 72 percent have been brought into code compliance. This includes tagging more than 1200 abandoned cars.

Our Metro Codes department continues to be one of the most highly certified code enforcement departments in the United States, as Codes department employees have earned 419 professional certifications from regional, national, and international training organizations.

The efforts of the Codes

department have been instrumental in bringing about change in Nashville's neighborhoods. The commitment of director Terry Cobb, the 6 chief inspectors, 53 inspectors, and the codes administrative staff to the long-term goals of Nashville's neighborhoods is evident in their adherence to the codes that aim to keep our neighborhoods strong, safe, and healthy now and in future years.

For further information about our Metro Codes department, you can speak to a Codes representative at 862-6500, or visit them at www.nashville.gov/codes. Please call the Codes Hotline at 862-6590 to report code violations in your neighborhood.